



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 6, 2003

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Don Feith
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

PLEA IN HOOKSETT BANK ROBBERY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that Joseph Richards, 33, no permanent address, pleaded guilty on Friday, January 3, 2003, in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to one count of bank robbery. The charge stems from the September 5, 2002, robbery of the Citizen's Bank, Hooksett Road, Hooksett, New Hampshire.

Richards will be sentenced on April 23, 2003. The statutory maximum sentence for bank robbery is 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. Richards may face an enhanced penalty if he qualifies as a career offender under the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A person qualifies as a career offender if he has two or more prior felony convictions for either a controlled substance offense or a violent crime.

Another individual, Joshua Bezanson-Perkins, 22 of Northfield, New Hampshire has also been charged with aiding and abetting Richards by driving the vehicle used by the defendants in the robbery. His trial is scheduled for April 2003.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "Congress has passed specific laws imposing significant punishments on individuals who are found to engage in continued criminal activity. The United States Attorney's Office is committed to using the tools provided by Congress to remove repeat offenders from society." U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Hooksett Police Department for its quick capture of the defendant and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its assistance in the investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.